

Newsletter of the Capital Hudson Iris Society

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September 2019

2019 Calendar

Sunday, September 15th: 1:30 p.m. **CHIS meeting**, East Greenbush Community Library, **Dave Burdick: "Colchicums and More!"** See the lead article in this newsletter.

Friday, October 4th and Saturday, October 5th. The Greater Rochester Iris Society is hosting the annual **Region 2 meeting** in Honeoye Falls, NY. **Hybridizer Hugh Stout** is the speaker. For registration please contact thehutchings@mac.com. AIS members see the Region 2 newsletter you should have received in your email recently for detailed information.

Sunday, October 13th: 1:30 p.m. **CHIS Meeting**, East Greenbush Community Library, speaker to be announced.

Sunday, November 17th: 1:00 p.m. (note early time). **Annual Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon**, East Greenbush Community Library, program to be announced.

No meeting in December.

Other events of interest

AIS 100th Anniversary Convention, May 18th– 23rd, 2020. Based at Marriott Hotel, Liberty Airport in Newark, with tours and events in New York City, New Jersey and surrounding area. See article on page 2.

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www.irises.org

Dave Burdick is Back with "Colchicums and More"

Dave Burdick of Dalton, Massachusetts, is one of our favorite plant people. He'll be our guest speaker at the September 15 meeting (the first meeting of the "new" year) at the East Greenbush Community Library. Most of you recognize the name because of his well-known daffodil business and talks he has given us on daffodils in the past. He's very much into a different bulb as well, Colchicums, which flower in the fall and grow their leaves in the spring. You may have seen them or even have some – they look a lot like crocuses without the leaves, grow multiple flowers in one clump, and flower at a very different time than crocus, September and October. In fact, many call them "Autumn Crocus". The meeting begins at 1:30 with coffee and goodies, a short business meeting at 2:00, and then Dave will speak.

From his website, daffodilsandmore.com, here's some of what Dave has to say: "Flower buds magically mushroom out of the ground in September and October from oddly shaped corms (there is an extension at the bottom part of the bulb called the "foot", from which the first roots and flower tubes emerge) and mature as clusters of 4"-8" stemmed wine goblets in every shade between rosy-pink and purple (there are some white forms too). Their wide, green, Hosta-like leaves do not appear until the following spring, eventually maturing and dying down in mid-July. First year planting will yield floral rewards in just a few weeks, provided that you can get the bulbs early enough."

We hope it will be early enough this year, because he's possibly bringing some bulbs with him for sale, that is if there are any left after he attends the Cactus and Succulent Society of Massachusetts Show and Sale the day before our meeting. (Please note, sometimes you can get flowers in the first year even with September planting.) Dave will let us know about how and where to plant them and the kind of ongoing care they will need. And he'll let us know about other bulbs he's developing an obsession for, as well!

The East Greenbush Community Library is located off Michael's Road in East Greenbush (go online to the Library website for driving directions). We'll be in Meeting Rooms A & B, on your left as you walk into the library beginning at 1:30. Do bring a friend and if you wish, a dessert or appetizer to share. The meeting is free and open to the public. If you have any questions, contact Euthemia at one of her emails on page 2.



Linda says...

Dear Gardeners -

We had a very successful iris sale this year at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham. It's usually our Rhizome Sale but this year we decided to combine our sales (we're getting old, they take a lot of effort) and Siberians as well as Iris Rhizomes of all sizes were available. We SOLD OUT! all our rhizomes and potted Siberians. Unbelievable! We grossed about \$2800 and will use the money to bring speakers to our meetings throughout the fall, winter and spring.

The reason we have our plant sales is to pay really good speakers to come, and Dave Burdick is one of them. He's so enthusiastic about bulbs and will let us know about his newest obsession, Colchicums, at our September 15 meeting at the East Greenbush Community Library at 1:30 p.m. I hope you'll be there and will bring a friend. Remember, all our meetings are free and open to the public.

Euthemia has written about the AIS Convention coming up in the spring of 2020 (see the column on the right). The preliminary plans sound very exciting. It's not that far from us, so you might want to start making your vacation plans now! In addition, Kathryn Mohr gave some good advice regarding staying at the convention hotel (the room prices are low considering this is the NYC area). When the convention was held there in 2016, eating in the hotel was expensive so many people took the airport shuttle to the international building and had their pick of inexpensive, delicious food at diverse restaurants at a fraction of the cost. As they left the airport, they bought muffins for breakfast and were able to keep their food costs down considerably. Heck, you can make it a gourmet convention as well! - Linda

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AIS 100th Anniversary in New Jersey, May 2020

The AIS 100th Anniversary Convention this spring will be very near us, headquartered in New Jersey, from May 18th - 23rd. The plans for the meeting are still being formulated but what they have so far indicates that this is a gardener's dream. And it isn't ALL irises, although you'll definitely get your fill!

Many of the activities listed so far will take place in New York City and at Presby Memorial Gardens in Montclair, where the AIS was born 100 years ago. Besides time at Presby and local New Jersey garden tours, they're including a tour of Wave Hill in the Bronx, an optional tour of the Highline in Manhattan and another optional tour of Liberty Park (Statue of Liberty is accessible by boat and a special admission fee to go into the Statue), a day at the New York Botanical Garden including an iris lecture, a visit to the Eagle Rock 9/11 Memorial in Orange, NJ, as well as dinner and the awards ceremony at the beautiful Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant located in Eagle Rock Park.

For the first time in AIS history, an International Iris Competition in honor of the Centennial Celebration will be held during the convention. Irises from several countries were shipped in the summer/fall of 2018 to Presby to grow and be cared for until a panel of international judges reviews them. You'll have a chance to see all of them as well as the awards during the Closing Banquet. The base of operations for the convention is the Marriott Hotel Liberty International Airport (Newark).

Log onto the American Iris Society convention website for additional information so you can plan in advance. (I googled AIS Centennial Convention 2020 and went from there). They're gradually building the website so new information will be added in coming months. It's a good place to plan a short vacation for 2020!

- Euthemia Matsoukas

See the results of the August Sale at Faddegon's in Linda's column (left side of this page.)

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